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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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Saigon 8256
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ACTION EA-19

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CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2734
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8256

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. EMBOFF AND DEPTOFF CALLED ON DR. PHAN QUANG DAN OCT 10 TO ELICIT DAN'S IMPRESSIONS OF RECENT ELECTION VALIDATION OUTCOME AND HIS VIEWS ON FORTHCOMING EVENTS, INCLUDING LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENT, AND DAN'S OWN FUTURE. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION DAN WAS RELAXED AND GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POLITICAL SITUATION.

2. DAN STATED HE HAD BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT ASSEMBLY

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MIGHT NOT VALIDATE SEPT 3 ELECTIONS AND REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES HIS PIQUE AT HIS RUNNING MATE SUU FOR LATTER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD VALIDATION. DAN'S EFFORTS TO PERSUADE SUU TO ADOPT MORE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO HIS ELECTION DEFEAT WERE

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TO NO AVAIL, HOWEVER, AND DAN FELT SUU'S RESIGNATION FROM PLA CHAIRMANSHIP WAS FOOLISH. HE CRITICIZED PRIMIN KY FOR RELUCTANCE TO BACK VALIDATION IN EARLY STAGES OF PROCESS, EXPRESSING LIEW KY HAD PERHAPS THOUGHT THAT FAILURE TO VALIDATE ELECTION WOULD PERMIT OLD NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO CONTINUE IN POWER AND HIW OWN POWER POSITION WOULD THEN BE PRESERVED. HE FELT KY MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN USING TACTIC TO IMPROVE HIS BARGAINING POSTURE WITH THIEU.

3. ON LOWER HOUSE ELECTION, DAN FOUND THEM "VERY CONFUSING". HE AND SUU HAD INITIALLY BEEN SUPPORTING A NUMBER OF CANDIDATES IN GIA DINH, BUT MANY OF THEM HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM RACE. HE DID NOT BELIEVE MANY CANDIDATES WERE BEING SUPPORTED BY EITHER GVN OR SUCCESSFUL SENATE LISTS.

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4. DAN DISCUSSED POSSIBLE PARTY DEVELOPMENT IN CONTEXT OF FAILURE OF THIEU AND KY GO RECOGNIZE NEED TO STOP ACTING AS MEMBERS OF GROUP OF RULING GENERALS AND TO START ACTING AS ELECTED NATIONAL OFFICIALS. HE FEELS OLD PARTIES CANNOT DEVELOP NEEDED MASS ORGANIZATIONS, ALTHOUGH HE COMMENDED HA THUC KY'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN EFFORTS. HE NOTED THAT ANY NATIONWIDE PARTY MUST HAVE SUBSTANTIAL GVN SUPPORT, BOTH FINANCIAL AND MORAL, IF IT IS TO SUCCEED. HE SEES THIS AS A PREREQUISITE EVEN FOR "OPPOSITION" PARTY, AND OBSERVED THAT EXAMPLE OF CVT, WITH ITS ASSISTANCE FROM BOTH AFL-CIO AND "US STATE DEPT.", DEMONSTRATED VALUE OF OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE.

5. DAN DWELT AT LENGTH ON NEED FOR VIETNAMESE TO MOVE DFORWARD WITH HASTE IN REORGANIZING MILITARY AND IN POL TICAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE TO AMERICAN PUBLIC THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. HE OBSERVED THAT US CONGRESSIONAL AND DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR US EFFORT IN VIET NAM CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO BE SUSTAINED INDEFINITELY UNLESS SUCH PROGRESS IS EVIDENT.

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6. DAN GAVE NO HINT THAT HE HAS BEEN APPROACHED TO SERVE IN NEW GVN. HE STATED HE WILL BE RESUMING HIS MEDICAL PRACTICE FULL TIME. IN RESPOONSE TO QUESTION, DAN SAID HE THOUGH HE COULD BE HELPFUL TO US AND GVN POLICY INTERESTS BY MAKING SPEAKING TOUR OF US.. INDICATING THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO DO SO BY AFL/CIO LAST YEAR BUT DECLINED BECAUSE OF OTHER COMMITMENTS HERE.

7. COMMENTS TYPICALLY, DAN GAVE EVIDENCE OF A MAN WHO HAS BEEN DEVOTING CONSIDERABLE CONSTRUCTIVE THOUGHT TO WHERE POLITICAL PROCESS MOUCT MOVE NOW. HE SEEMS TO HAVE NO LOVE LOST FOR HIS FORMER RUNNING MATE OR FOR OTHERS WHO HAVE ACCEPTED THEIR ELECTORAL DEFEATS LESS THAN GRACEFULLY.

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